

Appln. No.: 10/004,071
Amdt. dated July 22, 2005
Reply to Office action of June 27, 2005

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

The allowance of claims 9 and 10 is acknowledged.

Claim 11 has been amended to clarify that the doubled over connecting portion is one that is folded. This is not shown in the cited Ueta '315 reference which teaches separately formed gasket plate and stopper ring portions that are "attached" to one another.

It is believed that the combined features of claim 11 distinguish applicants' invention over Ueta '315 and that the rejection should be withdrawn.

The remaining claims depend, ultimately, on claim 11 and are believed allowable for the same reasons over their parent and one another by reciting applicants' invention in greater detail.

It is believed that this application now is in condition for allowance. Further and favorable action is requested.

The Patent Office is authorized to charge or refund any fee deficiency or excess to Deposit Account No. 06-0420.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.



Robert L. Stearns, Registration No. 36,937
The Pinehurst Office Center, Suite #101
39400 Woodward Avenue
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304-5151
(248) 723-0427

July 22, 2005
Date

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this Amendment for U.S. Serial No.: 10/004,071 filed October 25, 2001 is being sent via facsimile to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on July 22, 2005.


Karri M. Chamberlin